

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An intervertebral implant ~~(1), specifically an artificial intervertebral disk, with~~ comprising a central axis (2), an upper section (10), suitable for laying onto the base plate of a vertebral body lying above, and a lower section ~~(20)~~ suitable for laying onto the cover plate of a vertebral body lying below, wherein:

A) ~~the upper section (10) is provided with~~ has a ventral side area (11), a dorsal side area (12), two lateral side areas (13,14), a top apposition surface (15), and a bottom surface (16);

B) ~~the lower section (20) is provided with~~ has a ventral side area (21), a dorsal side area (22), two lateral side areas (23,24), a bottom apposition surface (25), and a top surface (26); and

C) ~~the two sections (10,20) are~~ moveable in relation to each other ~~by means of~~ via two joints (38;39) arranged between the two sections (10;20), wherein:

D) ~~each of the joints (38;39) is provided with~~ has a swivel axle (3;4) and the two swivel axles (3;4) are arranged transversely or perpendicular to each other;

E) ~~the two joints (38;39) are realised by means of~~ comprise an upper joint element (31) connected with the upper section (10), a central joint element (32), and a lower joint element (33) connected with the lower section (20); ~~whereby~~

F) ~~the central joint section (32) is connected with the lower joint section (33) by means of at least one axle (62) coaxial to the swivel axle (3) and rotating around the swivel axle (3) and with the upper joint section (31) by means of at least one axle (61) coaxial to the swivel axle (4) and rotating around the swivel axle (4);~~
~~characterized in that~~

~~G)~~a means (40) is provided that is suitable for causing temporary blocking of the mobility of the two sections (10;20) around the joint (30), whereby

~~H)~~that the means (40) comprises an insert (41) with a lower end (45) and an upper end (46) and a depression (42;43) in the surfaces (16;26) at each of the two sections (10;20), which are open on the ventral side areas (11;21), and

~~I)~~that the insert (41) with its ends (45;46) can be inserted into each of the depressions (42;43).

2. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the central joint element (32) ~~is provided in the form of~~ comprises a frame.

3. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the central joint ~~section element~~ (32) ~~is designed~~ in the form of a cross.

4. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the central joint ~~section element~~ (32) ~~is designed~~ in the form of an angle.

5. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the means (40) ~~provided~~ keeps the two sections (10;20), measured at their ventral side areas (11;21), at a fixed distance from each other.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the means (40) can be attached to the two ventral side areas (11;21) of the two sections (10;20).

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the depressions (42;43) are dovetail guides and the ends (45;46) on the insert (41) are arranged complementary to these dovetail guides.

10. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the dovetail guides are tapered from the ventral side areas (11;21) towards the dorsal side areas (12;22).

11. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the means (40) comprises two insert pieces (63) parallel to the lateral side surfaces (13;14;23;24), which can be attached to the surfaces (16;26) facing each other.

12. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the insert (41) can be attached to one of the two sections (10;20) by means of a screw (44) in a way that can be released.

13. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the upper and the lower sections (10;20) each comprises at least two drill holes (80) running through from the ventral side areas (11;21) to the apposition surfaces (15;25) with longitudinal axes (83) for receiving bone fixation devices (81).

14. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 13, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the longitudinal axes (83) of the drill holes (80) make an angle γ with the central axis (2).

15. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to ~~Claim~~ claim 14, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the angle γ lies in a range of between 20° and 65°.

16. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to claim 13, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the longitudinal axes (83) of the drill holes (80) as seen from the ventral side areas (11;21) diverge from the inner surfaces (16;26) against the apposition surfaces (15;25).

17. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to claim 13, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the drill holes (80) are conically tapered towards the apposition surfaces (15;25).

18. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant (1) according to claim 13, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the drill holes (80) ~~are provided with~~ have an internal thread (82).

19. (currently amended) A process for the replacement of a defective, natural intervertebral disk by an intervertebral implant ~~characterized by the steps comprising:~~

~~A) blocking of the joint(s) (38;39)~~ one or more joints of an intervertebral implant (1) ~~through the special~~ with blocking means (40) inserted in a certain position of the joint(s) (38;39);

~~B) insertion of~~ inserting the intervertebral implant (1) into the an intervertebral space to be treated; and

~~C) release~~ releasing and ~~removal of~~ removing the blocking means (40) inserted into the intervertebral implant (1) for blocking the joint(s) (38;39).

20. (currently amended) The process according to ~~Claim~~ claim 19, ~~characterised in that it~~ additionally ~~comprises the~~ comprising subsequent blocking of the

joint(s) ~~(38;39)~~ on the implanted intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ through with the blocking means ~~(40)~~.